



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

**Department of
Agricultural Commissioner/
Weights and Measures**

Kurt E. Floren
Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures

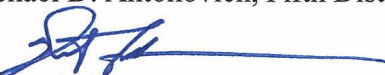
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<http://acwm.co.la.ca.us>



Richard K. Iizuka
Chief Deputy

DATE: February 27, 2008

TO: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair, Second District
Supervisor Gloria Molina, First District
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Third District
Supervisor Don Knabe, Fourth District
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Fifth District

FROM: Kurt E. Floren 
Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures

SUBJECT: **ASIAN GYPSY MOTH IN WILLOWBROOK**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) will initiate a program on March 10, 2008, to eradicate the Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) in Willowbrook. AGM is a threat to residential and commercial landscapes, nurseries, and forests and woodlands, as the caterpillar stage feeds on over 500 species of plants. Females of the species can fly up to 25 miles while egg masses and pupae attached to nursery stock, vehicles, camping equipment, and outdoor household articles are readily moved and transported, creating a high risk for spread. AGM poses additional threats to native animal species as it destroys plants on which they rely.

One male specimen was trapped in Willowbrook on July 19, 2007. The United States Department of Agriculture estimates that the density of traps in the area would catch only one percent of the moths. This, combined with the fact that AGM specimens were trapped in 2005, 2006, and 2007 in Orange County and on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, makes it likely that a population of AGM exists in the area.

CDFA will treat properties within 400 meters of the find site with ground applications of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (commonly called "Bt") every 10-14 days for three applications, followed by increased density trapping to ensure that the treatment has been effective. This pesticide is derived from naturally occurring bacteria that is fatal to moth larvae (caterpillars) only when ingested, but does not harm adult insects or other animals. Residents can eat any home-grown produce to which the pesticide has been applied. Pesticide applications are made by spraying host trees and shrubs (not lawns or ground cover) from the ground. A map of the treatment area is attached for your reference. Pheromone baited traps that attract adult male specimens will be placed at a density of 25 traps per square mile in a five mile radius around the find site.

Approximately 800 properties are within the treatment area. All residents are being notified, in writing, door-to-door by CDFA by Friday, February 29. ACWM staff will be present at a CDFA-hosted open house meeting on Thursday, March 6, from 6 to 8pm at the A.C. Bilbrew Library, 150 E. El Segundo Boulevard, Willowbrook.

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
R. Doyle Campbell, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Public Safety
Sachi Hamai, Executive Officer
Board Deputies

ASIAN GYPSY MOTH
LOS ANGELES
2007 / 2008

